

## Scripture

*Luke 2:7 (RSV)*

And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## Reflection

Be uncomfortable.

How do you imagine the nativity? Often, it is depicted as warmly lit, dry and comfortable. For Joseph and Mary, it was anything but. They had been rejected. There was no reverence for this young woman with child. Little did they know, it was the same woman who carried the one they all waited for, the Messiah. They were blind to love Himself.

Jesus was born outcast, amongst the animals as they slept and fed. He was born into poverty; with nothing. Yet He Himself is everything. When everything was going wrong, Jesus brought peace. Peace is consolation in Jesus amidst the turbulence of life.

Consider your own heart. Do you recognise Christ in others? Is there space in your heart for Jesus? Or is it so with you like Bethlehem; "There was no place for them in the inn."

Amen.



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## Contemplate + Share

Pause a few minutes with God; pray, journal.

- Q.** Did something stand out to you? Why?
- Q.** What is God saying to you right now?
- Q.** What part of your identity did you uncover?
- Q.** Do you feel compelled to make an action?

## Prayer

Jesus there are many things in my life that compete for the affection of my heart. I am attached to things that prevent me from loving you. Help me to detach. Teach me to let go of the things that are not important. Help me see that you are enough.

Jesus, you embraced our poverty:

*Lord have mercy*

Jesus, you experienced our rejection:

*Christ have mercy*

Jesus, you are our peace:

*Lord have mercy*